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Diana T Fritz 03/20/2007 05:32:58 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

Cable Text:

SECRET

SIPDIS

TELEGRAM September 02, 2003

To: No Action Addressee

Action: Unknown

From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 4004 - UNKNOWN)

TAGS: PREL Captions: None

Subject: UAEG ELECTS NOT TO AIR RECORDED THREAT TAPE RECEIVED BY

ABU DHABI TV

Ref: None

S E C R E T ABU DHABI 04004

SIPDIS CXABU:

ACTION: POL

INFO: RSO P/M AMB DCM ECON

DISSEMINATION: POL

CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: CDA:RAALBRIGHT DRAFTED: POL:JFMAYBURY CLEARED: POL/MIL:SYORK

VZCZCADI049

OO RUEHC RUCNRAQ RHMFISS RUEAIIA

DE RUEHAD #4004 2451252

ZNY SSSSS ZZH

O 021252Z SEP 03

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1517 INFO RUCNRAO/IRAO COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

RHMFISS/HQ COALITION PROVISIONAL AUTH BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

S E C R E T ABU DHABI 004004

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/NGA, EB-IRAQ TASK FORCE, IO/UNP AND NEA/ARP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 9/01/13

TAGS: PREL IZ TC

SUBJECT: UAEG ELECTS NOT TO AIR RECORDED THREAT TAPE

RECEIVED BY ABU DHABI TV

- 11. (U) Classified by Charge d'Affaires, a.i., Richard Albright, for Reasons 1.5 (B) and (D).
- ¶2. (C) Summary: A special assistant to UAE Armed Forces Chief of Staff Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed al-Nahyan delivered to Charge late September 1 an audio recording that had been delivered to Abu Dhabi TV in Baghdad. The tape contains an oral message from someone claiming affiliation with Al Qaida, accusing US and coalition forces of being behind the Najaf bombing, threatening attacks on US, UK, and coalition forces if they do not withdraw from Iraq, and warning of biological weapons

attacks in the US and the UK. Senior UAEG officials doubt the recording's authenticity. Minister of Information Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed al-Nahyan assured Charge that Abu Dhabi TV would not air the recording. End Summary.

- 13. (SBU) According to our translation from the Arabic, the male voice on the tape identifies himself as a member of a sub-unit of al-Qaida called al-Qaida al-Muharama, or al-Tanzeem al-Muharam, which means the sacred Qaida or the sacred organization. The message is addressed to the Iraqi people, Arab countries, and the entire world. The speaker starts with Qu'ranic verses then denies any linkage with the latest bombing in Najaf. He accuses the U.S. and coalition forces of being behind this blast.
- 15. (SBU) The voice on the tape issues threats to U.S., U.K and coalition troops in Iraq and warns that if they don't withdraw their forces from Iraq soon, they will face more killings and explosions. "Beware of the coming hours," the speaker warns. "We have biological weapons capable of exploding in the most congested areas, causing the most devastating casualties. We already have the capability of putting together the most effective explosion in less than 35 minutes. We already planted two of them within the U.S. Our people can easily get into the U.S. and the U.K. planting such explosives on the most congested roads, and killing the highest number of people. This will be a historic explosion and probably the last. I hope this message will reach the American people."
- 16. (SBU) The recording also warns that "if the U.S. and the U.K do not withdraw their forces from Iraq, killings and explosions will reach their roads." There are also warnings for the Arab League and its members. "If you send troops into Iraq, explosions will reach your towns and cities, similar to what happened to the U.N, Saudi Arabia, and various other places." The speaker then announced an award of USD 85 million for the person who kills Paul Bremer, and a similar award for the killing of any member of the current Iraqi Governing Council, specifically naming Ahmed Chalabi. The award would be delivered by the group's secret service planted all over Iraq.
- 17. (SBU) Addressing media representatives in Iraq, especially "Al Jazeera" and Abu Dhabi TV, the speaker says, "I'm sending you this tape to ensure its airing on your channels to reach the whole world. Your duty is to convey all that you witness in Al Ramada, Baghdad, and other Iraqi towns and cities. We know where your offices are located in Iraq and can easily reach you if you don't convey the honest picture that you witness." Focusing on Abu Dhabi TV, he says "we respect and love you." He adds, "If you convey honest reporting, we will reward you and give you USD 1-2 million. Again we know how to get to you, and can protect you."
- 18. (SBU) The speaker repeatedly identifies his troops by giving the units' names. "Our forces are composed of three units -- Hamza, Khalid Bin Al Walid, and Al Hassan wa Al Hussain -- who are the most powerful units ever." He closes by asking the media to take this matter very seriously before it is too late.
- 19. (C) COMMENT: Our native Arabic speaker political assistant remarked that the voice on the tape sounded like an uneducated Arab or a non-Arab who can only read due to his ability to read the Qur'an. Several Arabic words were grammatically incorrect.